CLASSIFICATION S-E-C-R-E-T SECRET

50X1-HUM

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
INFORMATION FROM
FOREIGN DOCUMENTS OR RADIO BROADCASTS

REPORT

CD NO.

COUNTRY	USSR	DATE OF INFORMATION	1951
SUBJECT	Geographic - Pricaspian Lowland	DATE DIST.	2 Oct 1951
HOW PUBLISHED	Daily newspaper		
WHERE PUBLISHED	Frunze	NO. OF PAGES	3
DATE PUBLISHED	7 Jun 1951	SUPPLEMENT TO REPORT NO.	
LANGUAGE	Russian		

THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

SOURCE Sovetskaya Kirgiziya.

SUPPLYING WATER TO THE PRICASPIAN LOWLAND

The Pricaspian Lowland is a desolate area. Sands and solonchaks occupy a considerable part of the lowland. Winter there is cold with little snow; summer is hot. Variations in temperature are sharp. The small amount of precipitation which falls gives rise to frequent droughts and dry winds.

These unfavorable natural conditions limit the economic development of this area. Pasture land occupies most of the Pricaspian Lowland, but the absence of watering places and hay land hinders the development of livestock raising.

In the western part of the lowland, the Black Lands occupy an important position. The climate there is very arid, snow cover is insignificant and does not occur at all in some places. In the snowless winter, the blackened vegetation gives the area a dark, gloomy appearance. From this came the name "Black Lands." They occupy an enormous area of 4 million hectares. Since these lands are the most arid territory in the western Pricaspian Lowland, they are used only as grazing lands. The grasses there have a high feed value in spring. They dry up in summer, but flourish again in fall after rain has fallen.

On the basis of the Stalingrad hydroelectric installation, water will be supplied to more than 11 million hectares, and about 2 million hectares will be irrigated in the Pricaspian Lowland.

A dam over the Volga near Stalingrad will form the enormous Stalingrad reservoir.

The Stalingrad gravity-flow water-supply canal, about 600 kilometers long, will begin from the left side of the reservoir. It will pass through the territory between the Volga and the Ural and will connect these rivers.

SECRET

CLASSIFICATION S-E-C-R-E-T

STATE	X	NAVY	X	NSRB		DISTRIBUTION							
ARMY	X	AIR	X	FBI									

A network of gravity-flow water-supply main branch canals will extend from the Stalingrad canal from north to south. Their total length will exceed 2,000 kilometers. Fresh Volga water will flow through these canals into the deserts and steppes, supply water to more than 6 million hectares of pasture land, and irrigate more than one million hectares of plow land, pasture land, hay land, and tree plantings in the northern Pricaspian Lowland. The dry beds of rivers, lakes, and streams will be filled up, and four large reservoirs as well as a number of smaller ponds and reservoirs will emerge.

From the main water-supply canals and reservoirs and ponds will extend smaller water supply canals and an irrigation network. Their purpose will be a water supply for settlements, watering places for cattle, and selective irrigation of fields.

Near the water-supply canals or reservoirs it is planned to create a network of watering points so that cattle will not go directly into the canals and pollute the water.

North of the Stalingrad water-supply canal will run a second canal, which will supply water to and irrigate 1.5 million hectares of land in the southern Volga Region and in Precaspia, as well as land in the Volga-Akhtuba bottom. Since the terrain there is hilly, the water-supply and irrigation systems will operate with the aid of powerful pumps driven by electric motors.

The great Sarpinsk water-supply canal will begin from the right side of the Stalingrad reservoir. From it will extend branch canals for supplying pasture lands with water and an irrigation network for selective irrigation of the Sarpinsk Lowland and the Black Lands to the extent of several million hectares.

The water-supply canals will cut through the arid steppes and will saturate them with moisture. The dry Sarpinsk lakes, through which the canal will run, will form a chain of enormous interconnected reservoirs. Water from the Sarpinsk water-supply canal and the reservoirs will, because of conditions, be fed into the branch canal system not by gravity but with the aid of powerful pumps.

Water supply and irrigation will create the conditions for the development of agriculture. Grain crops, technical crops, and orchards will grow in the Pricaspian Lowland. Water supply and irrigation of pasture lands, grasses and other feed crops will play an important role in the development of livestock raising. From this beginning will develop a stable feed base for the development of highly productive livestock raising, karakul raising, meat and dairy cattle raising, and horse raising.

Tree plantings along the water-supply canals and around the reservoirs and ponds will help to fix the sands and to protect agricultural lands from dry winds which blow from the deserts and semideserts in the Volga Region.

Water supply differs from irrigation in that water-supply canals, reservoirs, ponds, and wells are established at considerably greater distances from each other than irrigation canals because of their purpose, relief, geological structure, soils, or other local conditions.

The main water-supply canals, in continuous operation the year round, will be established 20 to 40 kilometers apart. Smaller branch water-supply canals will lead off from them; they will be located closer together and will operate either continuously or with interruptions depending on the utilization of the territory. The location of these canals will be determined by the condition that cattle will not have to travel great distances for water.

For irrigation, a special, more dense network of canals will be needed. For example, permanent distribution irrigation canals taking water from the trunk canals will be established 400 to 1,200 meters apart.

Water-supply canals will be established in areas where high-quality fresh water is lacking in sufficient quantities for settlements, industry, and livestock. Existing dry rivers, lakes, and other depressions will be filled with water from the canals. In areas supplied with ample fresh underground water, dug and drilled wells will be established for supplying populated points and cattle with water.

This entire network -- water-supply canals, reservoirs, ponds, and wells -- will be built to assure the possibility of using the maximum part of the steppe and desert territory for pasture land and for the development of agriculture.

The problems of transforming the Pricaspian Lowland in western Turkmenia and of utilizing the Kara-Kum Desert are being solved by the creation of the Main Turkmen Canal, which will supply water to 7 million hectares of pasture land and will irrigate 1.3 million hectares of arid land.

The Pricaspian Lowland in western Turkmenia is a hot, dry, tropical region. Adequate water supplies there will permit the growing of cotton, sugar cane, citrus fruits, and mulberry trees on large areas and the cultivation of gardens and vineyards. Enormous areas will be utilized for the development of livestock raising and agriculture. The yields of grasses on pasture and hay lands will increase several times. Kolkhozes and sovkhozes will begin to receive large stable harvests of agricultural crops and grasses without respect to weather conditions.

Numerous ponds and reservoirs filled with fresh water will promote the raising of fish and water fowl. The water-supply canals will be low-cost waterways for passenger and freight traffic.

- E N D -